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Roundtable “Enhancing Regional Coordination on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean”

Athens, Greece, 6 September 2016

**Agenda item 5: Main elements for a joint work plan to support the implementation of the  
Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean**

**Existing Guidelines on Marine Litter Management**

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1. Article 14 of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (Decision IG.21/7) foresees that the Secretariat in cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations, shall prepare specific guidelines taking into account where appropriate existing guidelines, to support and facilitate the implementation of measures provided for in articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan. Article 12, point 4 also provides for the Secretariat to prepare in collaboration with the relevant regional organizations the guidelines for the preparation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes.

2. In order to implement the above provisions, UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat has programmed its work to identify, develop and update relevant guidelines which addresses specific aspects of marine litter management. The first steps that have been already undertaken are:

- Elaboration and adoption by COP 19 of the Marine Litter Monitoring Programme and its Guidance document;
- Elaboration and adoption by COP 19 of the Fishing for Litter Guidelines;
- Identification of existing guidelines addressing specific marine litter management developed at global and regional for a including the other regional seas.

3. The guidelines on marine litter management shall facilitate the implementation of measures provided for in Articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, addressing both the land based and sea based sources of marine litter.

4. In this respect and based on the specific provisions of the above articles, the new and or updated or existing guidelines are expected to cover the following marine litter management tools:

- *Application of Extended Producer Responsibility;*
- *Application of Sustainable Procurement Policies;*
- *Establishment of voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to reduce plastic bags consumption and introduce bulk and refill special and reusable containers for selling dry food;*
- *Use of fiscal and economic instruments to promote the reduction of plastic bag consumption;*
- *Establishment of Deposits, Return and Restoration System for expandable polystyrene boxes in the fishing sector and for beverage packaging*
- *Establishment of procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry, to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic to reduce micro-plastics;*
- *Application of waste reducing/reusing/recycling with the view to reduce the fraction of plastic packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy;*
- *Reduction at source of urban solid waste management;*
- *Ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port facilities or when applicable a No-Special-Fee system;*
- *Use “Gear marking to indicate ownership” and the “reduce ghost catches through the use of environmental neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps” concepts;*
- *Preventing marine littering from dredging activities and from littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the sea, the coastal zone and rivers.*

5. The Secretariat undertook a research and identified a list of existing global and or regional guidelines on marine litter management as presented in Annex I to this document. This list covers different aspects such as monitoring, waste management, fishing for litter, etc. Identification of such a list is a first effort and will be followed up by a joint review and further contribution and inputs by all the partners as appropriate. On this basis consideration will be given to the needs for further update or elaboration of necessary common tools, guidelines and best practices for implementation of prevention and reduction marine litter measures.

## ANNEX I

### List of Existing Guidelines on Marine Litter Management

1. Abandoned lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (UNEP, 2009). UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 185; FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 153.
2. Marine Litter Legislation: A toolkit for policy makers (UNEP, 2016).
3. Solid Waste Management (Volume I) (UNEP, 2005). UNEP Publication on the Principles, Processing, Treatment, Final Disposal and Non-Technical Consideration of Solid Waste Management.
4. Solid Waste Management. (Volume II) (UNEP/IETC, 2005). UNEP Publication on the Regional Overviews and Information Sources
5. Guidelines on Survey and Monitoring of Marine Litter (UNEP/IOC, 2009).
6. Fishing for Litter Guidelines, Assessment Report, Baselines Values, and Reduction Targets (UNEP/MAP, 2015).
7. Guidance Document on Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Litter (UNEP/MAP, 2016).
8. Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants in Mediterranean Coastal Cities (II). (UNEP/MAP/MED POL/WHO, 2004). MAP Technical Report No 157.
9. Dossier on Tourism and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean (UNEP/MAP/Blue Plan, 2005). MAP Technical Report No 159.
10. Guidelines on Municipal Wastewater (UNEP/WHO/HABITAT/WSSCC, 2004).
11. Massive Open Online Training Course (MOOC) on Marine Litter (UNEP/GPA, 2015). <https://www.marinelittermooc.org>
12. Abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded gillnets and trammel nets: methods to estimate ghost fishing mortality, and the status of regional monitoring and management (FAO, 2016). FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 600.
13. Guidelines for the Implementation of MARPOL ANNEX V “Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships” (IMO, 2012).
14. Guideline for Monitoring Marine Litter on the Beaches in the OSPAR Maritime Area (OSPAR, 2010).
15. Guidelines on sampling and reporting of marine litter found on beach (HELCOM, 2008).
16. Actions to Reduce the Input and Presence of Marine Litter in the Baltic Sea as part of the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (HELCOM, 2015). HELCOM Recommendation 36/1.
17. International bottom trawl survey in the Mediterranean, Instructional Manual (MEDITS Working Group, 2013).
18. Guidance on Monitoring of Marine Litter in European Seas (TGML, 2013).
19. Manual for the International Bottom Trawl Surveys (ICES, 2012).
20. Reducing ship generated marine litter - Recommendations to improve the EU Port Reception Facilities Directive (IEEP, 2013).
21. The MARLISCO Guide for Reducing Marine Litter: Get Inspired and Become Innovative Through Best Practices (MARLISCO, 2014).
22. Marine LitterWatch (MLW) Smart Phone Application for Survey and Monitoring of beach marine litter. European Environment Agency. <http://www.eea.europa.eu/marinelitterwatch>
23. Methodology for Monitoring Marine Litter on Beaches Macro-Debris (>2.5cm) (DeFishGear, 2015).
24. Methodology for Monitoring Marine Litter on the Sea Surface Visual observation. (DeFishGear, 2015).
25. Methodology for Monitoring Marine Litter on the Seafloor (continental shelf) Bottom trawl surveys. (DeFishGear, 2015).